

28 OCTOBER 2016
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NME

THE INSPIRATION ISSUE

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A GOOD
IDEA!"

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EDWARDS

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GOT TO HAVE
PASSION!"

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YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

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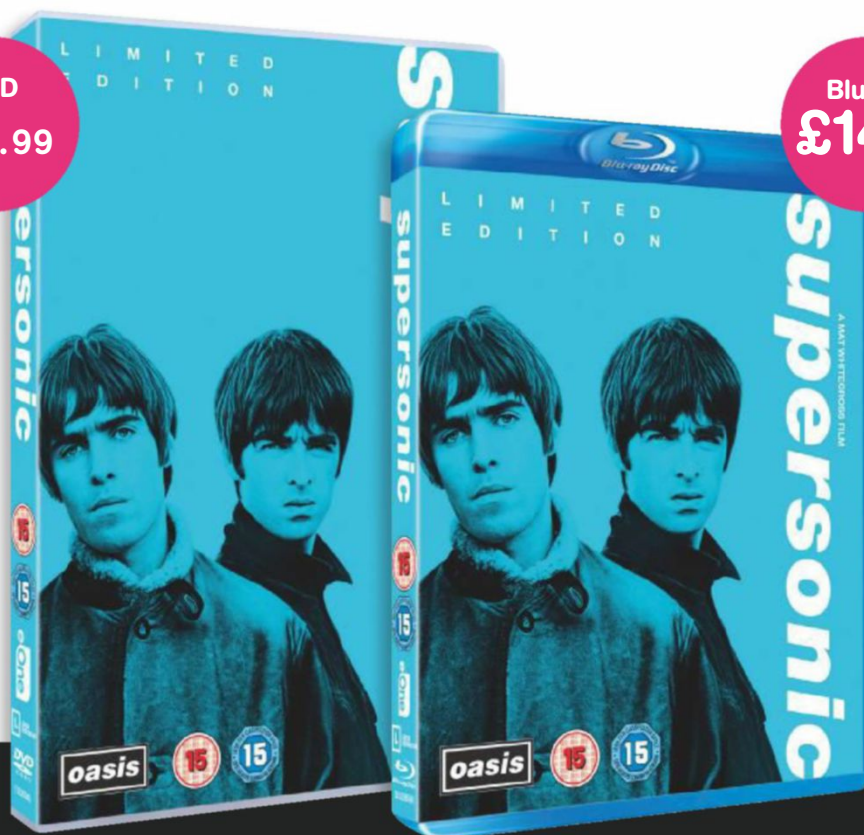
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HELLO...

SO THE DEATH CURSE OF 2016 has struck again. Dead Or Alive singer Pete Burns is the latest to surrender. The only thing more depressing than thinking about how many music greats have died this year is knowing that in 2017 the ones who didn't will be one year older and one year slower. The upside, of course, is that it's Halloween on Monday and there has never been so many excellent costume choices.

As promised in this column last week, this issue of NME is all about inspiration. Inside you'll find tips and words of wisdom from the likes of Ricky Gervais, Charli XCX, Katherine Ryan, Lady Leshurr, Will Arnett and Riz Ahmed, as well as practical instructions from industry experts such as Aardman Studios, Google and Tinie Tempah's manager. The star of the show, though, is the man on the cover: SBTV founder and all-round exceptional entrepreneur Jamal Edwards. We interviewed Jamal at our recent #lifehacks event, and the story of how he made it is fascinating. In fact, if you don't feel motivated and stirred up after reading it, check your pulse – the curse of 2016 might have got you, too. Happy Halloween!

MIKE WILLIAMS

Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike



Alfa Mist **p36**

COVER STORY

FEATURES

18 Jamal Edwards

"Make a list of five people you want to meet, and stalk them. Mine were Richard Branson, Dr. Dre, Bill Gates and David Beckham."

24 Words Of Inspiration

From Katherine Ryan, Ricky Gervais, Riz Ahmed, Peter Serafinowicz, Gizzi Erskine, Craig David and more...

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BRIAN FALLON

& the Crows

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

CHRIS FARREN (EXCEPT BRIGHTON)
dead&words

NOVEMBER 2016

TUE 15 BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2
WED 16 LONDON O2 FORUM KENTISH TOWN
THU 17 NORWICH UEA
FRI 18 CARDIFF UNIVERSITY GREAT HALL
SAT 19 LEEDS O2 ACADEMY

SUN 20 LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY
TUE 22 GLASGOW O2 ACADEMY
THU 24 OXFORD O2 ACADEMY
FRI 25 NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
SAT 26 WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL
SUN 27 PORTSMOUTH PYRAMIDS CENTRE

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

Pyramid songs

Call the farmer police! Radiohead are the first Glastonbury 2017 headliners, as revealed by this giant Pyramid field crop circle last week. Here are four other things organiser Emily Eavis told us about next year's event

DAFT PUNK AND STONE ROSES AREN'T PLAYING

"I don't know where anybody got those names from," Eavis said, ruling out two of this year's big rumours.

THERE'LL BE A WHOLE NEW AREA FOR NEXT YEAR

Apparently it'll be "between an installation and somewhere you'll go to experience watching films and listening to music in a different way".

ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE LINE-UP IS BOOKED

"Because we're having a year off in 2018, we're cramming two years of music into next year," Eavis revealed.

THE NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE IN 2017

Eavis said the main bulk of the line-up will probably be revealed in May, but is sure "there'll be something early next year to keep people in the loop".

FOR MORE GLASTONBURY NEWS, GO TO NME.COM

WORDS: RHIAN DALY



Radiohead's 'angry bear' symbol spotted at the festival site

hmv presents

US politics



House Of Cards S1-4
out now on DVD & Blu-ray



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Charlie Brooker's Screamwipe

It's Halloween weekend – so here's the man behind Netflix creepathon *Black Mirror* on the things that scare him the most

NUCLEAR F**KING WEAPONS

"When I was growing up, nuclear war was all the rage and I expected to die in a fireball, but then awareness of it seemed to recede. I suspect it's gonna come back. You don't need Donald Trump to be voted in for nuclear war to break out for a silly reason – there are thousands of them primed to be launched at a moment's notice."

FAR RIGHT POPULISM

"It's suddenly OK to start openly saying that you want to check refugees' teeth and things like that. The people thinking and saying that sort of thing should shut the f**k up and think: we're all stuck on the same f**king bauble in the vast void of space so we'd better get on."

GERM-SMOTHERED DEVICES

"Like TV remotes in hotel rooms, or PIN machines in a chemist. Everyone in there with an ailment touching, sweating, pissing and shitting all over that. You might as well lick the inside of a hospital bin if you're touching that."

SPIDERS

"I don't buy when people go, 'A spider's more scared of you than you are of it'. That's f**king bullsh*t because I've never seen a spider sh*t itself. If a spider runs out from under the TV, I'm like a f**king gazelle that thinks it's heard a leopard."

GOING ON QUESTION TIME

"I've done topical comedy shows so I think people assume I have lots of facts and figures at my disposal. I'm actually a f**king idiot. If anyone threw a fact at me and said, 'Well you say that about checking refugees' teeth but I think you'll find that if you look at this then actually it's a good thing to do,' I'd go, 'Ok, sh*t, sorry!'"

EVERYTHING

"I'm scared of everything. Literally everything. Any and all situations, I'll conjure up a terrifying worst-case scenario and ruminate on it, so *Black Mirror* and things like that are kind of an attempt at gallows humour, probably. It's therapeutic."

***Black Mirror* is available to stream on Netflix now**



BOB DYLAN

Still ignoring the fact he won a Nobel prize. Expert trolling.



CHILDISH GAMBINO

The actor/musician is to play *Star Wars*' hippest rogue in the Han Solo movie.



JOHNNY DEPP

Turns out he accidentally signed the BSL word for 'tampon' in a Paul McCartney video.



CHERYL COLE

Posted satanic imagery on Instagram. Either she was hacked or she's launching a black metal band

Charlie Brooker on...

The good, the bad and the ugly



The US election

"I get a queasy feeling every time I look at it. I have to ignore it because it's not good for my mental health."

The killer clown craze

"Never mind these sinister clowns, what's up with *normal* clowns? What the f*** are they doing?"

Stranger Things

"It really was like every '80s movie rolled into one. It was impossible to stop watching it."

A Bake Off-themed Black Mirror episode

"Channel 4 have already done that, haven't they?"



Syke-o thriller

Bring Me The Horizon's arena tour kicks off at The O2 on Halloween. Take your costumes, says frontman Oli Sykes



Oli Sykes says he'll go make-up free for The O2

Will you be dressing up on October 31?

"We usually do but because it's The O2 and we're playing to 15,000 people, we want to make sure we can actually play without worrying about melting make-up. I hope there are some people dressed up in the crowd though – I always like seeing Spider-Man crowd surfing."

How are you going to step things up for these arena shows?

"Visually, it's really simplified: bold and in your face. If you come along, you're getting a bit of a spectacle."

For anyone not going to your Halloween gig, can you recommend a horror film they should watch instead?

"There's this French one called *Martyrs*. They remade it recently and it was terrible but the original is f**king cool. It's a harrowing watch – an hour and a half of intense action and nail-biting terror – and excruciatingly violent."

What costumes have you rocked in the past?

"We once played Las Vegas as the Village People, and last year we got done up as bats, with prosthetics and everything. We were a bit like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

Win tickets to the Levi's Music Project x Skepta

We've got five pairs of tickets to give away

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What: A special performance from 12 young people who've been mentored by Skepta as part of the Levi's® Music Project. The performance will be inspired by the current V&A exhibition 'You Say Want A Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970' that celebrates the counter culture revolution of the '60s, and how it influenced the modern day.

When: November 5

Where: The Raphael Gallery at the V&A Museum, London



The Chainsmokers l-r:
Drew Taggart
and Alex Pall

The Chainsmokers: our Twitter terror

Bro-tastic EDM duo
The Chainsmokers hit
London for two shows
last week – but found
themselves hitting
headlines for all the
wrong reasons

You've been at the centre of
a couple of Twitter-storms
lately, firstly when Alex
criticised Lady Gaga's
'Perfect Illusion' and she hit
back with a tweet about her
new song, 'A-Yo', with lyrics
about "smokin' 'em all"...

Alex: "She killed it with that
tweet! That was such an ace
response from her. You know, we
were never looking to, like, beef.
I have so much respect for her.
That was just my opinion, which
I honestly thought no one would
give a shit about. And obviously
it got all crazy or whatever, but
she can have that victory."

Then, Drew, a load of tweets
hollering abuse at Halsey
appeared on your account.
What happened?

Drew: "I was hacked. I feel
pretty violated. I was like, 'It's
fine because they wrote so
much insane shit, no one can
think that was real.' But
obviously there are still people
on Twitter who say, 'I don't
believe you, you're lying, you
didn't get hacked, you just don't
want to own this.' It's f***ed up."

Is it scary knowing things
you say can become such
a big deal?

Alex: "Everyone that's met us
would say we're honourable cool
dudes, but we're just new to this
whole 'can't speak your mind'
[thing]. But I think it's important
to have your opinions – that's the
reason I love Kanye so much,
even if I don't agree with
everything he says."

Your song 'Closer', with
Halsey, is riding high in the
charts. **How do you choose**
which vocalists to work with?

Drew: "We look for a unique
voice, but also a unique attitude
and a unique personality. We like
someone who only f***s with the
dope shit, you know? Like
Halsey: she's such a cool chick."

Who's top of your wish list?

Drew: "Bon Iver. You know when
you listen to someone's music
and just think, 'I get you.'
That's how I feel about him."

Ask me anything

The lowdown on The
Chainsmokers

Who: Polarising New York duo
Drew Taggart and Alex Pall, who
went viral with 2013's novelty
electro-house cut '#Selfie'

Biggest hit: The
uncharacteristically mellow
'Closer', which first hit Number
One in September

Collaborators: 'Closer' vocalist
Halsey plus rising singers Rozes,
Phoebe Ryan and Daya

They say: "Only Justin Bieber
and Drake can hold a candle
to what we've done" –
Drew Taggart

See them: The pair return to the
UK next year, starting at The
Roundhouse, London, on
February 19

WORDS: NICK LEVINE PHOTO: SONY MUSIC

Last W33K IN NUMBERS

£5,000

Fine for ticket touts under
new government
proposals. That'll
learn 'em.

5

Minutes that Snapchat
oversharer DJ Khaled
spent documenting the
birth of his son.

2

Grams of human ashes
included with the new
album by experimental
types Negativland.

1

Number of blowjobs
Madonna has offered to
anyone who votes
for Hillary Clinton.

ON THE RECORD



THIS WEEK

Forget acid. The best way to trip is in a sound bath

IF YOU'RE A FAN OF psychedelic experiences, but would rather listen to Tame Impala on repeat than drop acid in the park and risk spending the next nine hours talking to a willow tree, then may I recommend the Integratron. Situated in the hippy paradise that is California's Mojave desert, the Integratron is a huge, acoustically resonant dome made entirely of wood. Its mastermind was a quirky fellow by the name of George Van Tassel, a UFO fanboy who built the structure in 1959 under orders from visitors from the planet Venus. Obviously. After Van Tassel's death, the building was left to crumble, but was bought in 2000 by new owners who decided it was the perfect place to host crystal bowl sound baths.

For the uninitiated, a sound bath is variously described as a kind of meditation, or a massage that, erm, rubs you from the

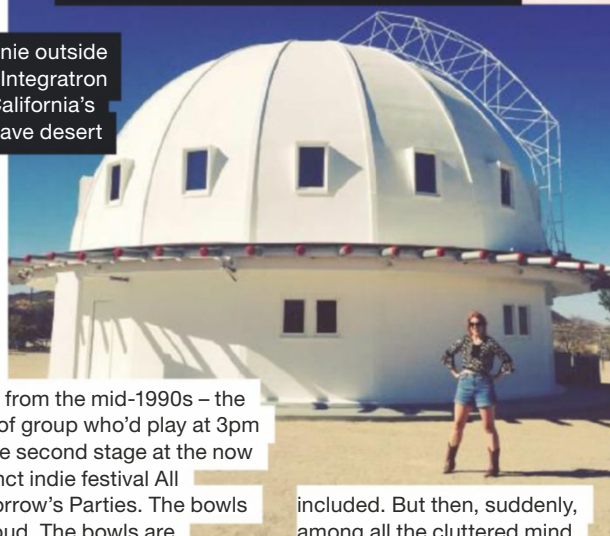
inside rather than the outside.

Many practitioners have said that the process often elicits strange hallucinations and transcendental experiences.

Plus Josh Homme, Fleet Foxes and Arctic Monkeys have all been to the Integratron and sung its praises. Sign me up, right?

So here I am in the middle of nowhere, America, fresh from my very first sound bath. After handing over \$25, me and my fellow psychic travellers were led into the dome and asked to lay down on squidgy foam day beds and snuggle down under a blanket. Then, a man with a voice like hot buttered rum told us to close our eyes and proceeded to play the quartz bowls. The bowls, it transpires, sound not unlike an experimental noise

Leonie outside the Integratron in California's Mojave desert

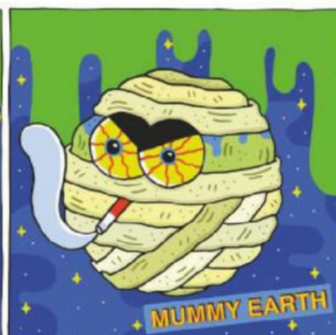
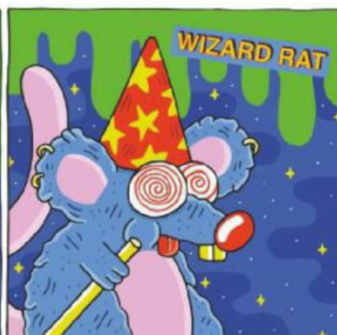
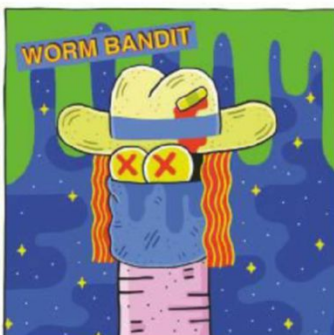
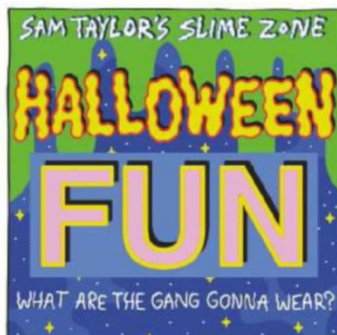


band from the mid-1990s – the kind of group who'd play at 3pm on the second stage at the now defunct indie festival All Tomorrow's Parties. The bowls are loud. The bowls are sometimes baffling. The bowls want you to know that their fanzine is much cooler than your fanzine. I think I might have a crush on the bowls.

As the bowls rang out with another low-key drone rock banger, I tried to empty my mind and think about absolutely nothing. But it turns out thinking about absolutely nothing is actually pretty difficult. I ended up thinking about *everything*; friends, family and the outstanding In-N-Out burger I'd had the previous evening,

included. But then, suddenly, among all the cluttered mind chaos, I started seeing 'things'. Weird shapes began darting across the darkness of my closed eyelids. Was that an eagle? Or maybe the spirit of cosmic cowboy musician Gram Parsons? Was I actually tripping on sound? It's hard to tell, because the next thing I knew, I was fast asleep and ever-so-lightly dribbling on my pillow. I'm unsure about whether or not I was really hallucinating in the Integratron, but I was deeply and truly relaxed for the first time in months – and that was worth the admission fee alone. [@leoniecooper](#)

"I started seeing things and dribbling on my pillow"



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THIS WEEK

Smashing pumpkins

NME's Jo Weakley is bloody brilliant at pumpkin carving. Here's her step-by-step guide to turning a big squash into a legendary work of art for Halloween

YOU WILL NEED

- 1 x pumpkin
- 1 x small, sharp kitchen knife
- 1 x marker pen
- 1 x ballpoint pen
- 1 x spoon
- The internet
- Access to a printer
- Big dreams

1 Decide who you want on your pumpkin. People with super-sharp facial features work best. Find a picture of this person that has loads of light and shade, as the contrast between the two will help you see which areas to cut out.

2 Print your chosen picture in black and white. Stick it onto the smoothest side of your pumpkin with tape.

3 Using a ballpoint pen, trace over the outlines of the facial features and around the edges of the dark areas. Remove the printout. You should still be able to see the lines imprinted on the pumpkin skin. Go over them with the pen.

4 You will be cutting out the lightest parts of the image, and leaving the pumpkin skin in place for the dark parts. To make it easier to see which bits you need to cut, colour in all the light areas with a marker pen.

5 Cut a lid in your pumpkin. Using a spoon or your hands, remove the seeds and all the pulp.

6 You don't need to cut all the way through the pumpkin skin to let the light from the candle you're gonna put inside shine through. You can get a better effect by scoring the skin around the area you want to remove and slicing the skin off. Scoring means it's less likely you'll slip and remove a vital part of anatomy (yours or the pop star's).

7 The deeper you cut, the lighter that area will be. For midtones, try slicing off the skin but none of the pumpkin flesh.

8 Bung a tea-light inside. Pop the lid back on. Bask in the warm glow of your artistic talents then Instagram the hell out of it.

Eat the leftovers

Use the seeds you removed from your jack-o'-lantern to make this boozy Halloween snack

INGREDIENTS:

- 200g pumpkin seeds
- 120ml rum or whiskey
- 1½ tbsp brown sugar
- ¾ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 135°C.

Simmer the booze, sugar and seeds in a saucepan for 15 minutes until the seeds turn a little bit grey.

Take off the heat and drain off the liquid. Stir in the spices.

Spread over a baking tray. Bake for 45 minutes or until crisp and golden, shaking occasionally.

PHOTOS: PEXEYES/PHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK

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NOEL GALLAGHER



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£3.95 lush.com



Boxing clever

Marilyn Manson's clothing collaboration with Killstar begat these banging boxers.

£17.99 killstar.com



Pump it up

Grow your own Jack-o'-lantern with this autumnal indoor gardening kit.

£9 urbanoutfitters.com



Flying feet

These bat-wing heels add a subtle touch of scariness to your Halloween look.

£45.09 pinupgirlclothing.com



Dead good

This tee is proof that being dead doesn't stop you from rocking out.

£8 boohooman.com



Web ready

A spider's web-inspired silver chain harness for a dose of gothic glam.

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Doom-y drink

Patrón XO Cafe coffee-flavoured tequila looks evil but tastes delicious.

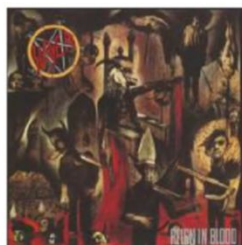
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£1.99 grindstore.com



Bloody brilliant

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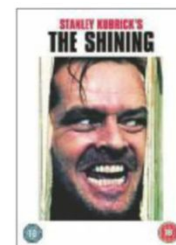
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Here's Johnny

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YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Nottingham



KAROLINA SWIERCZ

18, bartender

Listening to:
SCHOOLBOY Q
That Part ft. Kanye West
"I love the beat, it gets me going!"

Wearing: Adidas cap, jumper and trainers, Boohoo leggings.
Best thing about Nottingham: "Jamcafe – it's very chilled and has great live music."
If you could take an instax of a star who would it be?
"Eminem for sure."

"Jamcafe has great live music"

HANNAH WAUMSLEY >

26, mental health worker

Listening to:
DR. DRE
I Need A Doctor
"One of my favourite hip-hop tunes definitely."

Wearing: Topshop jacket, George at Asda top.
Best thing about Nottingham: "Foremans – it's a great punk bar."
If you could take an instax of a star who would it be?
"Dolly Parton."



ANAS RASHID >

22, student

Listening to:
THE SCRIPT
Superheroes
"I saw them in Nottingham recently. They were absolutely amazing!"

Wearing: Topman shirt, vintage jeans.
Best thing about Nottingham: "Wollaton Park is really peaceful."
If you could take an instax of a star who would it be?
"Shawn Mendes – he's just so cool."



ADAM TOTTEN

20, student

Listening to:
DEAF HAVANA
Boston Square
"Bring on the new album!"

Wearing: Vintage jacket, Primark T-shirt.
Best thing about Nottingham: "Pepper Rocks, a cool crêperie bar."
If you could take an instax of a star who would it be?
"James Veck-Gilodi – Deaf Havana's lead singer."

TERRY ALLAN >

26, venue manager

Listening to:
CARIBOU
Can't Do Without You
"It reminds of mental parties I've been to."

Wearing: Vintage jacket, American Apparel T-shirt.
Best thing about Nottingham: "If you're into dark, electronic music then The Brickworks is for you."
If you could take an instax of a star who would it be?
"Dave Grohl."



NME and instax are offering one lucky reader the chance to win two tickets to the NME Awards where you can capture your own one-off moment with a free instax mini 70 camera.
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THE
INSPIRATION
ISSUE



STRICTLY BUSINESS

Jamal Edwards is a man on a mission. In fact, he's been on one for the past decade, ever since founding SB.TV, the all-conquering online broadcasting platform. **Leonie Cooper** interviewed him at the first ever NME lifehacks event, a day of workshops, panels and inspiration to help young people break into the creative industries. He had a lot of wisdom to pass on...

PHOTOS BY GARETH CATTERMOLLE/GETTY IMAGES

Spin me right round

There's a party happening right now, at a venue hidden inside a roundabout in the city, tucked away from the bright lights of neon traffic that spins around it...



The Magic Roundabout is still one of the capital's craziest hidden gems and one of its best kept secrets. Its charm lies in a year-round festival atmosphere, steady stream of the party scene's funnest DJs and a selection of street food vendors who offer award winning munch for every palate. Including:

Burger Bear



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from Burger Bear



Open air in the summer, heated and covered in the winter

IN NOVEMBER 2006 SB.TV – short for Smokey Barz TV, a nod to Edwards' own, ill-fated rap persona – launched on YouTube, its content crafted in the south Acton estate where the teenage Edwards lived with his mum. Starting with Edwards filming his mates on the video camera given to him for his 15th birthday, he was soon following around his favourite rappers, and before he knew it had the likes of Dizzee Rascal and Wiley in front of his lens and was summoned to follow Dr Dre on tour in Asia. Though, as he bashfully tells NME, he lost all of the footage as he forgot to back it up. Whoops.

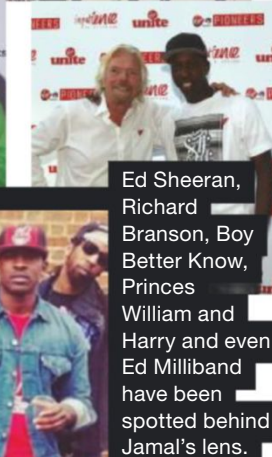
Within five years SB.TV had become a serious media concern, helping grime to go global but also broadening its remit to pop and helping launch the career of Ed Sheeran in the process. By 2013 SB.TV was valued at a whopping £8 million and in 2014 Edwards was awarded an MBE for services to music. Not bad for a guy who didn't go to university and was almost thrown out of college. All of which made Jamal Edwards the perfect person to deliver the keynote speech at NME's inaugural Lifehacks event, which took place earlier this month at Islington Metal Works in London. Who knows, in five years time you could be a millionaire too...

So take us back to the beginning of SB.TV - where did the very first seed of the idea come from?

"I think the first seed of the idea came from me being a bit frustrated with my mates not being allowed on the mainstream platforms. Back in the day it was quite difficult to get our voices heard. YouTube was about a year old and I started uploading my own videos – there was a gap in the market."

And it was all just because you got a camera for your 15th birthday?

"I first started filming just random stuff – I was filming my mum, I was filming stuff in my back garden. Then I started filming musicians."



Ed Sheeran, Richard Branson, Boy Better Know, Princes William and Harry and even Ed Milliband have been spotted behind Jamal's lens.



And then what made you turn it into a business venture?

"I was working at Topman, I had a nine-to-five for about four years and it got to a point where all my mates were like 'Why you working in Topman, you should carry on doing SB.TV'. I used all the money that I had from Topman and brought my camera, brought my tape, brought my sound. I used all that money to put into my business. When my first YouTube cheque came through I realised I could change it into a business and start building it up. I got denied by YouTube three times before I got my YouTube partnership."

You've just turned 26 years old, but what was the young Jamal like?

"I wasn't business minded at all. It's better to start with passion. People start off thinking about money – and it's good thinking about money – but when you think about the passion it starts to make money. That's the right way to do it. Everyone used to say you don't have the right sound or equipment but I say make do with what you have."

When you were a little kid who did you look up to?

"It was Richie Rich."

The film character?

"Yeah. I remember watching that back in the day and I was saying 'How can I do that to my house?' And that sort of inspired me to get thinking. I didn't have rich parents so I was thinking 'How could I do that?'"

Were you self-taught when it came to filmmaking?

"When I first started it was mainly YouTube and Google tutorials. It was a lot of going online and researching, spending hours in the bedroom rendering videos and exporting them again. With the internet there are so many different things which will teach you how to keep on building a business."

So are you still learning?

"Yeah, I've only recently got my first mentor, which was two years ago through a company called Nesta (a government initiative). I had a mentor called Nick Southgate who was the CEO of Shed Media."

What kind of advice did he offer you as a mentor?

"The biggest piece of advice that he gave me was get your finance, – VAT, tax and receipts – in line and in order. Even if you haven't got a big business, it's still about your everyday spend. Trying to keep a note of that and then also at the end of the month looking at it, seeing where you can save, where you can make costs a little bit lower. That's what I did. I realised I spent a lot of money on sweets! I started making a few hundred pounds a month saving on sweets. The little things can count."

You didn't go to university – is that something you regret?

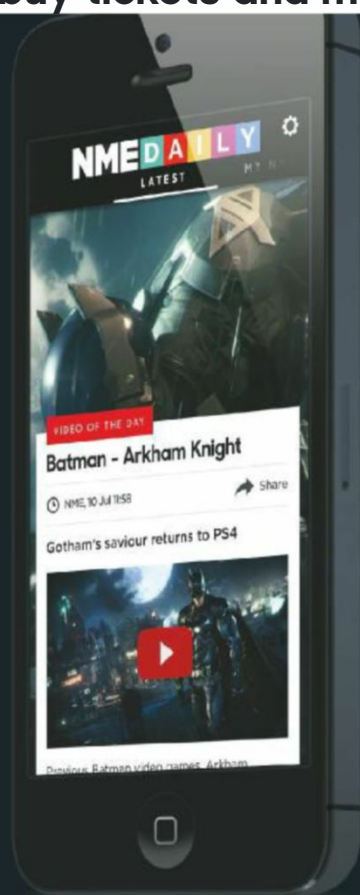
"I would love to go in the future. I am thankful for getting an MBA from Luton University which was a Master's degree in business and administration. That's the course I wanted to do but didn't. But it came to a point in college where I was juggling three, four things. I was working in Topman, I was doing college and I was doing SB.TV. So I would have my college shift and my work shift and then, on the bus on the way home, I would be editing videos. I was finishing college but SB.TV started picking up so I thought I might as carry on doing SB.TV."

"I looked up to Richie Rich as a kid"

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Where did your drive and commitment come from?

"There were so many closed doors, I think that was my inspiration at first - loads of people saying 'no'. That was from waiting outside nightclubs to film certain artists who I'm really friendly with now. All the closed doors inspired me to keep going. I think also when I started to hit different milestones within SB.TV that's when I realised this is being taken seriously now. I started when I was 15 and for the first five years I didn't earn anything, it was just a lot of hustling and working my other nine-to-five jobs to pay the way, but after that we started to scale up."

You've spoken before about the importance of hustling. Can you expand on that?

"If you made a list of five people you want to meet, just literally stalk them! I was always known as the boy with a camera - no one really knew my name. I was always with a camera in my hand just following people. That's what got me in there. It's about naming the top five people you want to meet and literally don't stop until you meet them."

Who were top of your list back in the early days?

"Richard Branson. Dr Dre. Bill Gates. David Beckham."

How important is it to get your face out there and just be up for anything?

"I think spontaneity is the biggest thing that's helped me. Whether that's being in the lift with Nicki Minaj and the label saying 'you can't film her' and me still going to film her, then her manager phoning me back the next day and saying 'come to our next show'. When I went on tour with Dr Dre in Asia I had to drop everything and it was a stress. I lost all the footage - I didn't back it up! I didn't really think things through. I should have actually said, 'I need a producer, I need a director'. It was just me and my camera. I learnt a lesson from that - even if you feel scared just ask for things, the worst thing they can say is 'no'."

"The closed doors became my inspiration to keep going"

Who was the first person to believe in you and pay attention to what you said?

"It was my form tutor in school. I was bunking my lessons to go film videos and it got to the point when college and my teachers were saying 'Jamal you need to buckle down'. So I literally made a deal and sat with my form tutor. I'm like 'Look, I'm doing YouTube SB.TV, can you work out a way where I can do school, do lessons, but if I come after school and learn more'. It was just asking people for help."

What was your first video for SB.TV?

"I don't even wanna talk about it! It's a video I did in Birmingham, at Cadbury Chocolate Factory. I was on a trip and I was filming my friends, it's so cringe but it's good to see how far it's come!"

You seem like a very busy man, but do you still maintain a healthy work/life balance?

"I try my best to. I try and go to the gym, I stopped eating meat. That was down to JME, when I was out with JME and we'd go for lunch he'd always go to vegan and I'd always go to meat, so one day I tried a vegan restaurant and it was actually quite good. I'm not vegan - I tried it for two weeks and it was very difficult - but I have stopped eating meat. I always try and ride my bike too, I'm from Ealing and I always wanna go to Shoreditch, so I try and ride my bike there and back, which is pretty good. I try and get seven or eight hours sleep a night now as well, it's difficult, but it's so important."



Jamal Edwards – need to know

BORN: August 24, 1990 in Luton

RAISED: South Acton, London from the age of 7

JOB: Digital entrepreneur, founder of youth broadcasting platform SB.TV, music A&R

YOUTUBE

SUBSCRIBERS: 750,205

AWARDS: Received an MBE in 2014 for services to music. Best New Startup, Virgin Media 2012. Made the Sunday Times Young Rich List in 2012 with a personal fortune of £6 million.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Jamal's mum, Brenda Edwards, came fourth on the second series of The X Factor.

What advice would you give to someone that wants to start their own business?

"I think one of the things is starting it for a passion, don't start a business just for a paycheck. I didn't really get my first paycheck until five or six years in. A lot of people might be on to a good idea but, because they don't make the money, they stop and I think that's the worst thing. If you're not getting money for your passion, then you need to get the money from your job. And don't be scared, I'm not saying working in Topman was bad, but earning your money and actually spending it responsibly, that really can help in the long run."

NME

ASPIRE... PERSPIRE... INSPIRE...

Words of wisdom from
the great and good

RICKY GERVAIS

*Comedy legend and creator
of The Office*

"I think for inspirational quotes about careers you can't beat [Winston] Churchill's, 'If you find a job you love, you'll never work again.' Follow your passions and work hard. I really think trying your hardest at something you care about usually ends well. And if you do something you love every day, it's hard to ever feel that you've failed."

GIZZI ERKSINE

Rock'n'roll chef and author

"The best bit of advice I was ever given was that success doesn't just come from ambition. It comes from absolute investment in what you do. You need to work hard. Study hard. Manifest your dreams and be yourself. I know it's a cliché, but being yourself is one of the main keys. The world is full of people trying to be like each other. The more unique you are, the more interesting you are to people, but ultimately it's about two things: talent and giving a bigger f**k about what you do than anyone else."

KATHERINE RYAN

Very funny stand-up comedian

"Never argue with an idiot; people won't be able to tell which one's the idiot. You can't reason with someone who's unreasonable and you'll only frustrate yourself if you try. Fixing a broken man is a fool's errand. You're wrong if you think you deserve to be understood. Know when to walk away without explanation. Don't say sorry if you aren't. There are plenty of stupid people making more money than you because they're too dumb to know they're stupid. If you have passion and determination, you can become President of the United States."



RIZ AHMED

Star Wars actor and Sweet Shop Boys MC

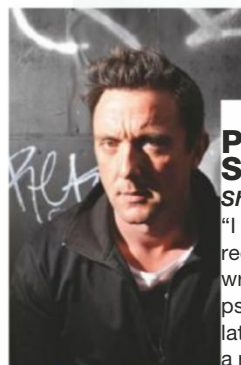
"The best advice is what Idris Elba told me – don't internalise the limits people put on you. It's their issue, not yours."



PETER SERAFINOWICZ

Shaun Of The Dead actor

"I read a book about ADD recently and the guy who wrote it, Douglas Puryear – a psychiatrist who was diagnosed late in life with adult ADD – made a rule: if your children ask you to play with them, stop what you're doing and play with them. They grow up fast."



LADY LESHURR

Fast, furious and downright brilliant Brummie MC

"Always be you. Never sell yourself short. Build the brand, and inspire before you expire!"





CRAIG DAVID

Resurgent UK garage legend

"Follow your intuition. Every time I've followed my gut instinct it's always led me to a better place, even if it's seemed a little scary at the time. When you have a creative idea or feel like you wanna make that move or change something, you need to act on it as that's where all the magic is."



LAURIE VINCENT

*Excellent artist and guitarist in **Slaves***

"I read a great article on [Kanye West collaborating artist] Wes Lang and he quoted a film. 'Don't be a product of your environment, make your environment a product of you.' I think that's a solid mantra for life."



BARNEY ARTIST

Emerging east London rapper with a message

"My advice is for people who feel stuck in a job while chasing a dream. Success doesn't come in an instant, so don't be discouraged if it's not happening as soon as you'd want it to. Don't allow 'social media envy' to corrupt your drive. There's a special unique path you have to go through to achieve your goals – just make sure you always work hard and never give up."



CHARLI XCX

Pop superstar with a new album on the way

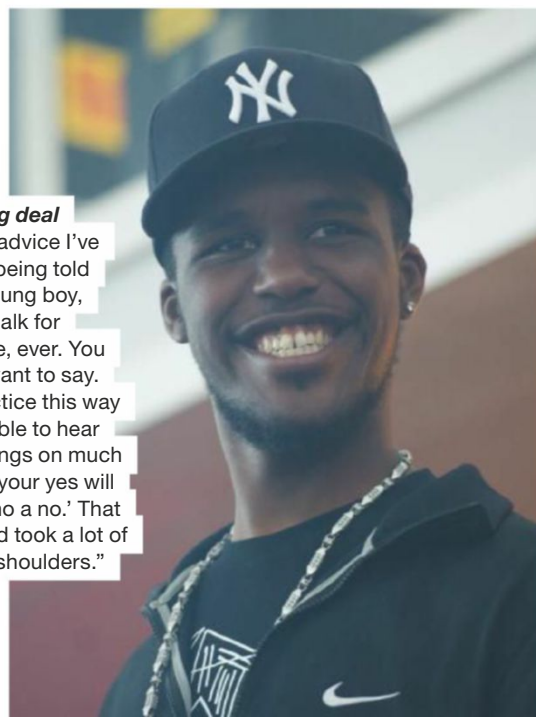
"Robyn once told me to always be ME, not worry about what other people think, and f**k everyone if they don't like it. To hear that from someone who I admired was so cool and comforting. Just do what makes you feel good and hang out with people you love and feel happy with. I feel like that equals good life vibes."



WILL ARNETT

*Arrested Development legend and the voice of **Lego Batman***

"Dance like everyone's watching."



NOVELIST

Grime's newest big deal

"The best piece of advice I've ever been given is being told by my mum as a young boy, 'You don't have to talk for conversation's sake, ever. You choose what you want to say. And when you practice this way of living, you'll be able to hear and understand things on much a higher level. And your yes will be a yes and your no a no.' That statement as a child took a lot of pressure off of my shoulders."

MOTIVATE... INSTIGATE... INVESTIGATE.

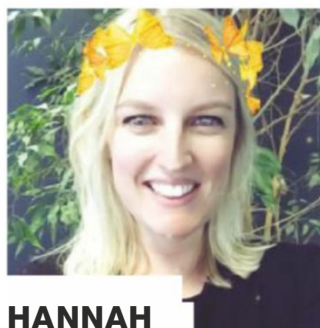
More inspirational
advice from NME's
#LifeHacks panel



DUMI OBUROTA

*Music mogul and Tinie
Tempah's manager*

"The best bit of advice is that what you put in is what you get out. Every hurdle in life is a challenge and when you get over it you don't regret having that challenge. Everything is a challenge – just trying to think of trying to do something is a challenge. Nothing's ever smooth, there are always hard times and rocky times. Every mistake is a good mistake. The person who inspired me to be driven was my dad. He was a really hard-working man – no matter what he did, he was just hard-working. He was a businessman, but then when he went through the recession he was a cab driver. He always put food on the table, so I think he really inspired me."



HANNAH BEASLEY

Social director, Iris Worldwide

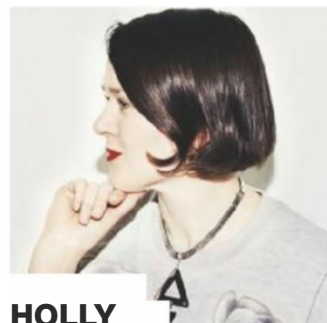
"The best piece of advice I was given was, don't feel like anything is below you. So if you get offered an opportunity, just go for it. It might not feel like your absolute dream job, but you never know what it's going to lead to, so always be open."



DANIEL EFERGAN

*Digital creative director,
Aardman Animations*

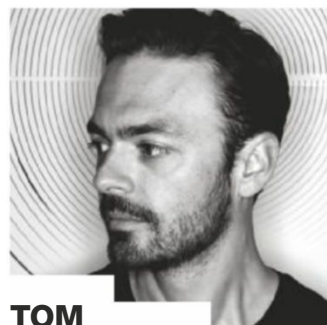
"Your brain's very spongelike. If you suck stuff in from the world around you and the people that inspire you, when you squeeze it back out again there's nothing new and interesting there. So to think differently you've gotta do weird stuff. Have an ice cream, go to a gallery, do ukulele team playing... whatever it takes to get something different in your brain."



HOLLY FULTON

*Award-winning
fashion designer*

"If I could give advice to my younger self I'd say, 'Don't be too cautious.' A lot of the best things that have happened to me have been things I've just reacted to and taken those opportunities very quickly. They might seem big decisions, like when I was offered my first catwalk in London. I had six weeks to make the whole collection and I was still living in Scotland, but I didn't hesitate. I was just like, I have to do this because I won't get this chance again. Don't be afraid to take risks. Things may not always go smoothly, but it can lead to the most amazing results."



TOM SEYMOUR

*Creative director, Google
Creative Lab*

"Be brave and be strong. You have to be willing to let some ideas go. The first job you land might not be your dream job, but if you work incredibly hard in that job you've landed you might eventually get to the job you want. Make the most of the job that you're doing now and take away and learn as much as you can."

GET MORE FROM #LIFEHACKS

If you didn't make it to *NME* #LifeHacks, you can check out inspiring videos from the day at NME.COM/LIFEHACKS. *NME* #LifeHacks was a joint venture with Create Jobs, an inspiring organisation that helps young Londoners aged 16-25 find work and opportunities in the creative industries. In their own words: "We believe diversity is the creative industries' greatest strength, so we've made it our mission to fill London's creative industries with fresh, young and local talent. We find, inspire, train and place people in entry-level positions across the industry. And we advise and support an amazing group of employers, without whom none of our work would be possible." Create Jobs is delivered by A New Direction in partnership with Create London (createjobslondon.org).



NME's Editor-in-Chief Mike Williams speaking at #LifeHacks



TIPS FROM THE TEAM

NME staffers on the lessons life has taught them

TOM HOWARD Deputy Editor

This advice was given to me as a writer, but it's pertinent for everyone – it's not about the writing, it's about the rewriting. It's extremely rare for any writer on any publication to not get edited. Most writers will be asked to make some changes to a piece of writing. All the great writers use this as an opportunity to make their work even better than it was before.

LEONIE COOPER Senior Staff Writer

Never give up. Don't let rejection get you down. Stay focused. Make connections with people – and keep them. Be nice to *everyone* – and mean it. Learn how to compromise – sometimes. Always have an emergency bar of chocolate in your bag.

DAN STUBBS Commissioning Editor

You can find all the life advice you need in pop music: "Shyness can stop you from doing all the things in life you'd like to" (The Smiths), "Don't carry the world upon your shoulders" (The Beatles), "Don't criticise what you can't understand" (Bob Dylan) and "Don't eat stuff off the sidewalk" (The Cramps).

CREATE
JOBS



HEYDON PROWSE

Actor, comedian and activist

"What inspires me to be driven? I just think realising the sh*t other people are going through in other places, and realising your opportunities, is a really quite inspiring thing. I've done a lot of work with the refugee crisis and just seeing the situation that Syrians find themselves in right now, you just think to yourself, 'Jesus Christ.' There's been a civil war for almost five years now and that's a huge chunk of their lives. They spend another year trying to get to Europe and then they spend another year trying to get citizenship, and then, 'Alright, fine, it's like six years, seven years down the line, now I'm going to start my career.' It's like, Jesus, that's such an impediment for people. And the fact that we live in a stable country is opening your eyes to all of those opportunities around you."

NME

PHIL KEMISH

Music industry insider and founder of the Rated Awards

"I think some of the best words of wisdom were from a guy called Russell Simmons, who's one of my idols. He started the Def Jam record label. He had this book and one of the chapters was 'Start In Order To Succeed'. I think there are a load of people out there who have a great idea, but they just sit on it. It could be years, it could be months, but the best piece of advice is just to start. Whether it's registering a website or getting your friends involved in the idea, I think 'start in order to succeed' is the best way to make things happen."



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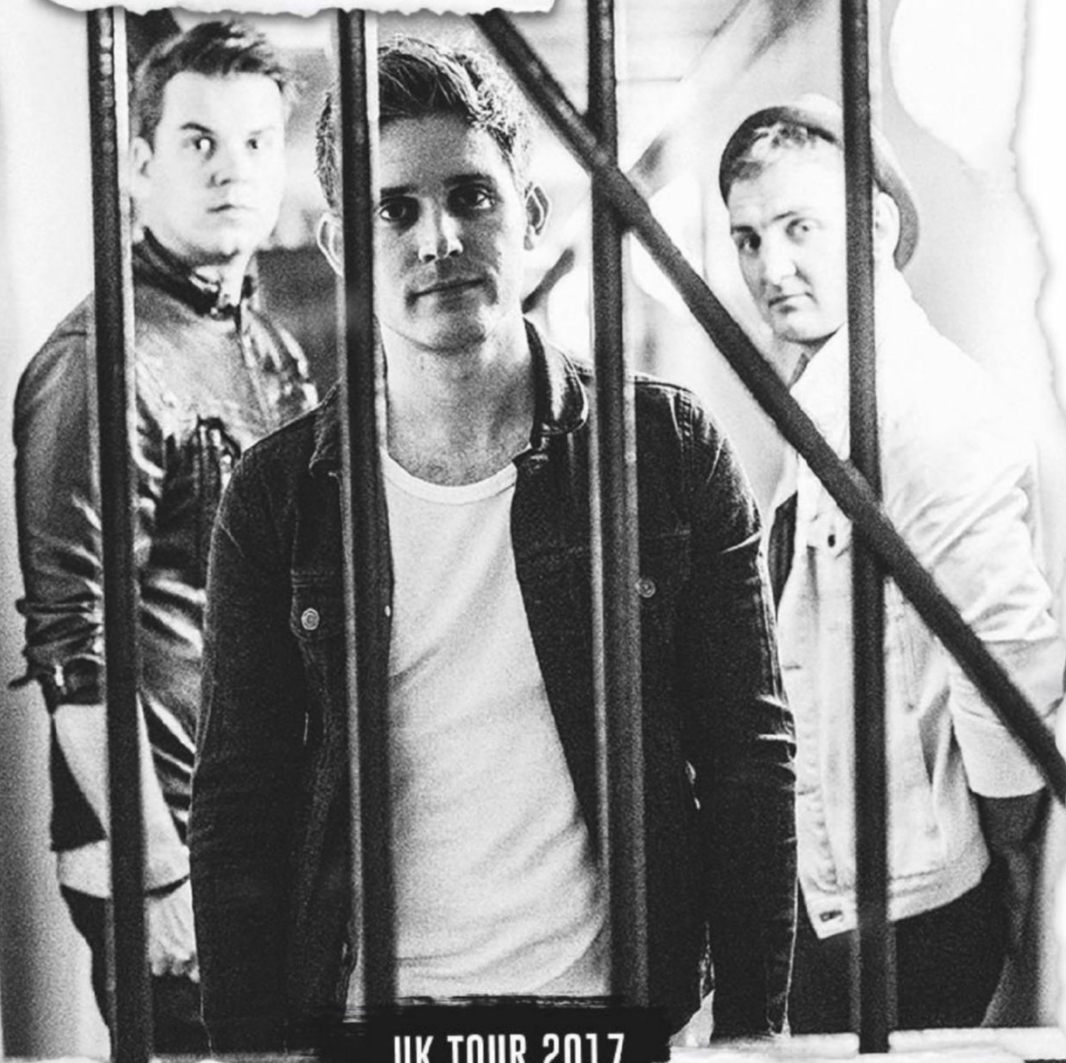
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RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks And when to drop them

BEST FOR ALL-NIGHTERS

PROFESSOR GREEN

One Eye On The Door

If you've ever got it in the neck from your other half for partying too hard, Pro Green's got your back. "Something to take turned into another mistake," he raps. We've all been there.

BEST FOR HILLARY LOVERS

LE TIGRE

I'm With Her

Ahead of next month's US election, Kathleen Hanna's electroclash trio return with this ode for Clinton. It's anti-Trump, pro-pant suits and full of jittery electro brilliance.

BEST FOR AIR VIOLINISTS

JUSTICE

Alakazam!

Gaspard Augé and Xavier de Rosnay deliver banging beats and graceful, digitized violins, and could probably cause the most elegant rave ever.

BEST FOR BAR-HOPPERS

SPLASHH

Rings

Now signed to the same label as Joey Bada\$\$, underrated indie types Splashh return with a fuzzy, see-sawing new single. One for fans of Chicago indie darlings, Smith Westerns.

BEST FOR THE EGO

COMMON

Home (feat Bilal)

"If they don't like it, shake the dust and say f**k 'em," instructs Common on this boom-bap cut from imminent new record 'Black America Again'. Sound advice.

BEST FOR LOVERS

DAVID BOWIE

When I Met You

One of Bowie's recordings for the *Lazarus* musical, 'When I Met You' is a touching ode to having your life turned around by a special person.

BEST FOR 1975 FANS

ARTIFICIAL

Pleasure

I'll Make It Worth

Your While

The debut track from this London trio is a gyrating, Bowie and Talking Heads-indebted dancefloor beast.

BEST FOR PREMATURE CHRISTMAS- SINESS

THE FLAMING LIPS

The Castle

Wayne Coyne's troupe of old oddballs give a taste of new album 'Oczy Mlody', with glittery synth ripples and lyrical sighs about halos and Christmas trees. Frosty.

BEST FOR TRUMP HATERS

EMINEM

Campaign Speech

Em's first new track in a year is eight minutes of pure rage, targeted primarily at Donald Trump. Expect his next album, in the works now, to go hard.



ARTIFICIAL PLEASURE

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC,
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EMINEM

MUSIC



SHAKIRA

SHAKIRA

Shakira (2014)

With a similarly wide stylistic range to 'Joanne', the truthful-hipped one's 10th album touches on reggae, country, dance and rock – with a lot of huge choruses.



TAYLOR SWIFT

Red (2012)

Taylor's big crossover breakthrough saw the country princess dip into pop and even drum'n'bass – and then take over the world.

ALBUM
OF THE
WEEK

What lies beneath

When Gaga strips herself back, she becomes a streamlined version of her brilliantly strange self

LADY GAGA

Joanne



HEART SOUL COUNTRY

LADY GAGA IS THE, last person you'd expect to travel the pared-down, real-me, let's-get-a-bit-country road. The abstract is where Gaga lives – what business could she have in the dusty, downtrodden ol' town of Authenticity?

Though 'Million Reasons',

co-written with country hitmaker Hillary Lindsey, served as potent, sky-clutching reminder of Gaga's way with a bare-bones ballad, Gaga Americana is neither the

Nashville kind nor the big-beards sort – it's a schlocky, thrill-packed theme park. When Gaga strips herself back, what's beneath is just a

more streamlined strangeness.

'Joanne' is as stylistically varied as ever. The gloriously daft 'John Wayne' is a raunchy

Westworld robo-romp, 'A-Yo' is 'Shake It Off' Pt 2 and autobiographical opener 'Diamond Heart' is Gaga doing The Killers doing Springsteen.

Beck collaboration 'Dancing In Circles' is a moody Latin number, while 'Hey Girl' – a duet with Florence Welch – is a subdued soul-funk slink and 'Come To Mama' a glammy showtune. But if the tracklist is wide-ranging, it's admirably concise. A sensible move after the distracting pretension of previous album 'ARTPOP'.

There is a real raw heart to 'Joanne' too – the title track is dedicated to the singer's paternal aunt, who died of lupus before she was born. It's a leavetaking song of great, simple beauty, more tenderly affecting

than anything Gaga's done before, showcasing the emotive power rather than the force of that great voice.

The rest of the album also rings with urges for us to take care of each other, most of all 'Angel Down', a song about the death of Trayvon Martin that also alludes to what she called, in her recent NME interview, "the toilet of the internet" – "*I confess I am lost in the age of the social / On our knees, take a test / To be loving and grateful.*"

It's a simple, warm and vital message from a high-concept pop star who's reminded us that, if she's definitely not like the rest of us underneath it all, she's certainly all human.

Emily Mackay



Fallen empire

Back in 2008, Empire Of The Sun were glorious weirdos who wrote great pop songs. Now they're just coasting

SOME BANDS FORM, others just *materialise*. That's what Empire Of The Sun would have you believe anyway. Back in 2008, Luke Steele and Nick Littlemore appeared like a pair of exotic spacemen who'd seemingly teleported in from the fringes of the galaxy to spread their peace-loving utopian vision of the future.

They had daft names (Emperor

Steele!) and talked up their brand of globalised pop music in a way that was appealingly silly. In interviews they'd wear full Afghan robes, exotic headdresses and alien make-up. Plus their much-hyped live show was a theatrical, colourful carnival.

The whole thing was audacious, ridiculously OTT and loads of fun, but it worked because of standout alt-pop singles like 'Walking On A Dream' and 'We Are The People', both refreshing tonics to much of the po-faced indie of the moment. In all, it far outstripped the success of Steele (The Sleepy Jackson) and Littlemore's (Teenager, Pnau) existing projects.

But then their second album, 2013's 'Ice On The Dune', was a bit uninspired. So is it time to restore the magic? 'Two Vines' features members of David Bowie's 'Blackstar' band and

Prince's The Revolution, and a guest spot from Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham. This time, they say, the album's vision is that of a city overtaken by jungle. While that sounds interesting, the reality is that this is the sound of a band coasting.

There are redeemable moments: the hooky EDM choruses of 'High And Low', 'Friends' and 'There's No Need' would be big enough to appear on an Avicii or Calvin Harris track, but the rest recycles too many sounds debuted on the first album. 'Way To Go', 'Ride' and 'Digital Life' all lack any cut-through potency. 'First Crush', the low point, is just plain naff. And Buckingham's contribution, performing on 'To Her Door', is, with respect, barely noticeable.

The album was made, in part, in Hawaii. Steele would surf in the morning and retreat to the studio later on. It's the kind of idyllic setting where days simply just pass by. Unfortunately, too many of the tracks on 'Two Vines' do exactly the same.

Greg Cochran

EMPIRE OF THE SUN

Two Vines



ALT-POP EXOTIC UNINSPIRED



(L-r) Luke Steele and Nick Littlemore

STRANGE & TRUE

In 2009, Littlemore didn't contact Steele for five months. Steele said he'd been "left holding the baby", Littlemore said he'd gone swimming and left his phone in his pocket.

MUSIC

Soft lads

Sam Eastgate was in *Late Of The Pier*. Connan Mockasin is a recluse from New Zealand. Together they've created a reverie of swampy psychedelia

SOFT HAIR

SOFT HAIR



PSYCHEDELIC LOUNGEY

A COUPLE OF years ago, blond-haired New Zealander Connan Mockasin had a nightmare. He and Sam Eastgate were cooped up in a dirty bedroom in Loughborough. Mockasin was lying in pain on a mattress, prostrate and feverish. Eastgate, brown-haired and from nearby Nottingham, was crawling around on the floor, chanting.

In the dream, Mockasin had fallen ill after pricking himself on an HIV-infected needle. He hadn't, of course, but when he woke the pair took Eastgate's dream chant and added waves of synth to form 'i.v.' – the disorientating third track on their debut album as Soft Hair.

Although this is their first album together, the pair actually met in 2008 when Mockasin supported Eastgate's old band, the cult day-glo indie boys *Late Of The Pier*. The shy, reclusive pair struck up a collaborative friendship and began a five-year-or-so recording process (the "dream" occurred midway through). Both have released solo records in the meantime and although Eastgate pursued a dancier direction with his LA Priest project, both men share a gloopy, psychedelic sound. Their songs together squelch rather

than thump, as evidenced on 'Soft Hair'. Recorded in patches across Europe and New Zealand, the eight songs here don't so much start and stop as undulate like the chest of someone in a deep sleep.

Loungey opening pair 'Relaxed Lizard' and 'Jealous Lies' initiate a deep, watery groove and introduce Mockasin's feline mewl and Eastgate's deeper vocal.

After that, things get slower and stranger. The deathly crawl of the aforementioned 'i.v.' bleeds into lead single 'Lying Has To Stop', which can be filed as an unlikely indie floorfiller alongside Ariel Pink's 'Round And Round'. It also highlights the creepy side of Soft Hair's world ("I'd like to watch you run but I'll never touch your bum").

'In Love' does the same, professing love for "*Chinese and Japanese girls*" over brass that (honestly) evokes George Michael's 'Careless Whisper'. But more than anything else, 'Soft Hair' is about intimacy, creativity and a zest for life – two singular musicians liberated by collaboration. For proof see the springy 'Alive Without Medicine' with its delirious "Oooh eee ohhh"s, and cloudy closer 'i.i.v.'. Praise be for these bare-chested, paint-covered lunatics.

Ben Homewood



Top to bottom:
Sam Eastgate,
Connan Mockasin

STRANGE & TRUE

On the night they met, Sam and Connan were both falsely accused of stealing a large ornamental pig.

FOR FANS OF



ROBYN



THE WEEKND

Songs about sex

Swedish singer Tove Lo writes top tunes about chasing all kinds of rushes. Get into it!

TOVE LO

Lady Wood



POP ELECTRO SEX

ANY POP SINGER with a body piercing and the odd song about sex gets called 'edgy', but Tove Lo deserves this tag more than most. "I eat my dinner

in my bathtub / Then I go to sex clubs", she sang nonchalantly on 2013's 'Habits (Stay High)', which became a huge hit in 2014 after being remixed by production duo Hippie Sabotage. Now, after adding vocals to suggestive hits by Years & Years ('Desire') and

Nick Jonas ('Close'), the intriguing Swede has named her second album 'Lady Wood'. The likes of Demi Lovato and Selena Gomez just wouldn't dare.

Lo says 'Lady Wood' is actually a two-part concept album about chasing rushes: the first half channels anticipation and, says the album's press

release, "that tingling sensation of sex"; the second deals with the comedown where "you feel a little bit uneasy. And you really want to chase

that feeling again". She certainly commits to her theme. After declaring herself "fine as f**k" on 'Influence', she sings about hooking up and getting hard on 'Lady Wood', tells us she doesn't fancy pretty boys (or pretty girls) on 'True Disaster', and elbows

away monogamy on 'Cool Girl' by singing, "No, let's not put a label on it / Let's keep it fun".

As her concept promises, the second half is darker, a little more despondent. 'Imaginary Friend' and 'Flashes' prickle with loneliness and vulnerability, while the sleazy strip-club grind of 'Don't Talk About It' owes an obvious debt to The Weeknd. 'Keep It Simple', a song about feeling unable to commit emotionally, features the brilliantly blunt line, "I go to bed with you but dream about him".

Some listeners may not warm

to Lo's persona, but her songwriting skills are difficult to fault (she's also co-written hits for Ellie Goulding and Girls Aloud on the side). Aided by collaborators including Lorde producer Joel Little and Max Martin's protégé Ilya Salmanzadeh, she keeps the hooks coming throughout as her hip, minimal electro-pop quivers, shimmers, pulses and throbs. When she sings, "I know that I'm a handful" on final song 'WTF Love Is', it's hard not to admire her for embracing it so persuasively in her music.

Nick Levine

MUSIC

CRX (l-r) Ralph Alexander, Darian Zahedi, Nick Valensi, Jon Safley and Richie Follin

STRANGE & TRUE

Producer Josh Homme made CRX listen to Missy Elliott's 'Work It' on repeat while recording in the studio

Different strokes

Strokes guitarist Nick Valensi has formed a new band and made an album. The result is hard, heavy, dirty – and mighty fine

CRX

New Skin



ROCK'N'ROLL SLUDGE SWAGGER



NICK VALENSI IS THE LAST of The Strokes to embark on a side project. The guitarist used to say he could never imagine working without Julian, Albert, Nikolai or Fab, but then he began to miss the adrenaline rush of touring. 'New Skin', the first album from his new band CRX, was born out of that desire to play live, and in more intimate spaces than he's used to. You can immediately tell what Valensi's aims for the record were. This

isn't stadium rock with an eye on the lighters-in-the-air crowd. It's dirty, sludgy rock'n'roll, that sounds best when rambling around a dive bar. It's heavier and harder than The Strokes, but his guitar lines have that familiar complexity and finesse.

'Ways To Fake It' is a gleaming opener, as shrill guitar lines and New Wavey synth hooks pierce through solid foundations. There are elements of The Cars to it, but it's not a sound that continues throughout the record. By second track 'Broken Bones', Valensi and his new band (including Guards' Richie Follin and The Reflections' Jon Safley) have moved into much darker, nastier territory.

"Picking the scab and watching it bleed" purrs the guitarist-turned-frontman, his voice rich with temptation, before everything shifts into a woozy lullaby of a chorus.

'New Skin' was recorded with Queens Of The Stone Age's Josh Homme in the producer's chair and there are rumbles of his bone-shaking style throughout.

'Unnatural' is full of sexy, snarling swagger and 'Walls' zips by on a wave of thundering riffs. Elsewhere there are hints of industrial ('Money Machine') and even reggae ('Slow Down'), all proving that Nick Valensi has plenty of ideas and invention to offer outside of The Strokes.

Rhian Daly

FILM

Just what the doctor ordered

Benedict Cumberbatch and Tilda Swinton shine in a comic book film that's a cut above

DOCTOR STRANGE

12A Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton, Chiwetel Ejiofor



SUPERHEROES SFX SORCERY

IF THIS YEAR'S CROP OF comic book films has been disappointing for some, *Doctor Strange* is an 11th-hour consolation prize. Featuring a title character whose roots lie in the heady psychedelia of the '60s, this is a movie in which, director Scott Derrickson has promised, "Marvel goes full weird". Derrickson, best known for horror films such as *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*, has certainly sold his vision to an impressive cast: Benedict Cumberbatch plays the titular doctor, but casting Tilda Swinton and Chiwetel Ejiofor in key supporting roles is also a coup.

When we meet Dr Stephen Strange, he's a neurosurgeon whose dazzling career dovetails with a dismal personal life; his slightly exasperated ex-girlfriend, fellow surgeon Christine Palmer (Rachel McAdams), seems to be his only friend. But after his hands are mangled in a car accident, Strange can no longer operate. Wallowing alone, he's offered a lifeline when he hears about a mysterious place in Kathmandu that once helped a paraplegic man to walk again. There, he meets super-powerful Celtic mystic the Ancient One (Swinton) and her loyal student Karl Mordo (Ejiofor).

"Full weird" is an oversell from Derrickson, but *Doctor Strange* definitely offers a fresh spin on

Marvel's usual superhero-saves-the-world narrative. The plot, pitting Strange against the Ancient One's corrupted former student Kaecilius (*Hannibal*'s Mads Mikkelsen), brings the film to a suitably high-stakes conclusion, but earlier scenes in which Strange masters the art of sorcery and visits freakish alternate dimensions are actually more interesting. Though action sequences showing cities that bend and fold in a ripple effect recall Christopher Nolan's *Inception*, this doesn't make them any less breathtaking. Some fine performances also elevate *Doctor Strange* above the blockbuster norm. Cumberbatch's spiky title character never quite loses his arrogance; Swinton's Ancient One is intriguingly ambiguous and could be interpreted as gender-neutral, though big-budget caution means other characters always use the pronoun "she".

Derrickson's film isn't without flaws: some humorous moments feel shoehorned in and McAdams is wasted in a disappointingly two-dimensional role. But if you're looking for an antidote to comic book film fatigue, *Doctor Strange* could be the one. **Nick Levine**

MINI INTERVIEW

Benedict Cumberbatch Star of *Doctor Strange*

Is Stephen Strange anything like Sherlock Holmes?

"He's good at his job and he's smart, but that's pretty much it. Doctor Strange is sexual, materialistic, a man of sensory pleasures – and he's got a sense of humour. There are lots of differences."

Did you feel a big responsibility to fans, playing this beloved, trippy character?

"Yes, but Kevin Feige – Papa Marvel, head of the studios – he's the biggest superfan, and he was so convinced I was right for it in the first place."

How did you prepare?

"I did my research with the comics, I did research as a neurosurgeon. I trained hard to physically change my shape, but also did yoga to keep fluid to do all the stunts and wire work – not just for that obligatory shirt-off moment."

There's a lot of magical jargon in the dialogue. How did you deal with that?

"I think the line in the film is, 'They just trip off the tongue, don't they?'"



**Under THE
RADAR**

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Alfa Mist

Jazz-inspired urban soundscapes from
east London's moodiest new producer

PHOTOS BY ZOE MCCONNELL / STYLED BY KOULLA SERGI



Like most of his mates, when Alfa Mist was a teenager he was dabbling in hip-hop and grime. But by the time he got to college, he was teaching himself the piano and getting deeply into jazz. A serious change was afoot.

"A huge part of hip-hop is sampling, so I just used to dig around and learned about so many different genres," explains the producer. "I discovered jazz and started to listen to that." As well as falling head over heels for the visionary work of Miles Davis, he became obsessed with the atmospheric film scores of German composer Hans Zimmer.

Alfa Mist's own work is similarly soundtrack-worthy, creating a soulful vibe packed with heady emotion. "I'm pretty dark as a person I guess, so everything ends up sounding melancholy and reflective," says Mist. "I want to make people feel something."

Growing up and still living in Newham, there's a real sense of

place in Mist's moody music. "There's something very distinctively London about the stuff I'm making now," he says. "It's to do with where I grew up. It's not like LA; all sunny, crazy and happy."

Last year's conceptual 'Nocturne' EP – which featured a run of guests, including Tom Misch, Barney Artist and Jordan Rakei – was a case in point. Made largely at night, it was concerned with the things people think about just before they fall asleep. "Problems you have, things you're grateful for or unsure about – I tried to bring them all out," he says.

Alfa Mist is now working on a new, mainly instrumental project. "I'm trying to come into my own," he explains. We can't wait to see – and hear – him when he does.

Leonie Cooper



Alfa Mist wears:

Jacket, £635, Issey Miyake Men.
Top, £262, Marcelo Burlon.
Jeans, £19.99, New Look.
Shoes, £82, Nike at Schuh.



Alfa Mist wears:

Jacket, £695, John Varvatos.

Shirt, £24.99, New Look.

Jeans, £150, BLK DNM.

Opposite:

Jumper, £245, Matthew Miller.

Jeans, £19.99, New Look.

Shoes, £85, Nike at Schuh.

Alfa Mist will headline *NME* Presents: Future Sounds of London at Boxpark Croydon on October 30. Sign up at nme.com/tickets for a chance to secure a free pair of tickets

FOR FANS OF

JAMES BLAKE ACTRESS

Best track

'BLAZE'

Featuring the spellbinding vocals of Kaya Thomas-Dyke, the smooth neo-soul of 'Blaze' is evocatively otherworldly.



BURIAL

Burial

The sound of late night London, dubstep producer

Burial's 2006 debut was a genre-defining low-key triumph.



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2016

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LONDON O₂ Forum Kentish Town
SUN 6th NOVEMBER
BIRMINGHAM O₂ Institute

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Sat 10 Dec 2016 // Newcastle O₂ Academy*

Sat 13 May 2017 Leeds O₂ Academy
PLUS GUESTS **THE SMITHS**

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Sat 25 Feb 2017 // Leicester The Scholar
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THE MOST IMPORTANT
GIGS THIS WEEK

Grande Slam

Ariana Grande brings third album 'Dangerous Woman' on a three-date victory tour of UK arenas

ARIANA GRANDE IS ONE OF the more satisfyingly outspoken pop stars out there. In Summer 2015, she became an improbably notorious figure in the USA for licking some donuts on display in a bakery and, in a comment about all the junk food she was looking at, declaring that she hated America. Unfortunately for her, the whole thing was caught on CCTV.

Fourteen months on and the 23 year old is tonguing fewer baked goods but still ruffling feathers, often shutting down interviewers' sexism towards her and her peers. Right now, though, she's probably best known for the pinpoint musical impressions she displayed on *Saturday Night Live* in March, and for the lyrics of recent reggae-tinged single 'Side To Side'. (These include "d*ck bicycle" and, she's explained, are about "riding leading to soreness".)

If you're late to the party, listen to Grande's third album 'Dangerous Woman' – a long way from when she was the goofy kid on Nickelodeon's *Victorious*. In May 2017, she'll bring the clubby experience to the UK, hitting Birmingham, Manchester and London, to wow crowds with the astounding elasticity of her voice. Caution: contains bangers.

ON SALE
NOW

ARIANA GRANDE
Pop's most irreverent star

MAY 2017

Thu 18 Genting Arena,
Birmingham **Mon 22**

Manchester Arena

Thu 25 The O2, London.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

TBC

TICKETS: £35-£55.



**ON SALE
NOW**

THE COURTEENERS

Manchester quartet
whose fifth album is loud
and rousing

NOVEMBER

Fri 11 O2 Guildhall,
Southampton Sat 12 O2
Academy, Brixton Mon 14 O2
Academy, Bristol Tue 15 UEA,
Norwich Thu 17 O2 Academy,
Birmingham Fri 18 Echo
Arena, Liverpool Sat 19 SSE
Hydro, Glasgow Fri 25 First
Direct Arena, Leeds

MAY 2017

Sat 27 Emirates Old
Trafford, Manchester

TELL ME MORE: They've
just announced a massive
homecoming gig at Old
Trafford. Before that, they're
taking new album 'Mapping
The Rendezvous' across
the UK in November.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: In
November: The View, Clean
Cut Kid or Milburn. In May:
The Charlatans, Blossoms
and Cabbage.

TICKETS: November:
£25-£32.35 May: £45

SUM 41

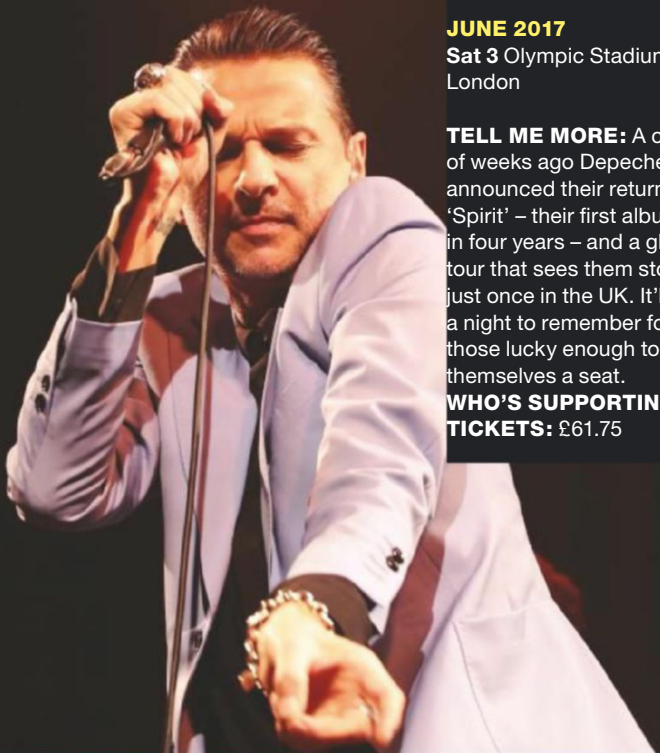
Pop-punk veterans from
Ontario, Canada

FEBRUARY 2017

Fri 24 O2 Academy,
Birmingham Sat 25 Academy,
Manchester Sun 26 O2
Academy, Leeds Tue 28
Barrowlands, Glasgow Thu 2
O2 Academy Brixton Fri 3 O2
Academy, Bristol Sat 4 Rock
City, Nottingham Mon 6 O2
Guildhall, Southampton

TELL ME MORE: They
released their sixth album
'13 Voices' earlier this month,
their first with new drummer
Frank Zummo.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: TBC
TICKETS: £22.50-£23.50



DEPECHE MODE

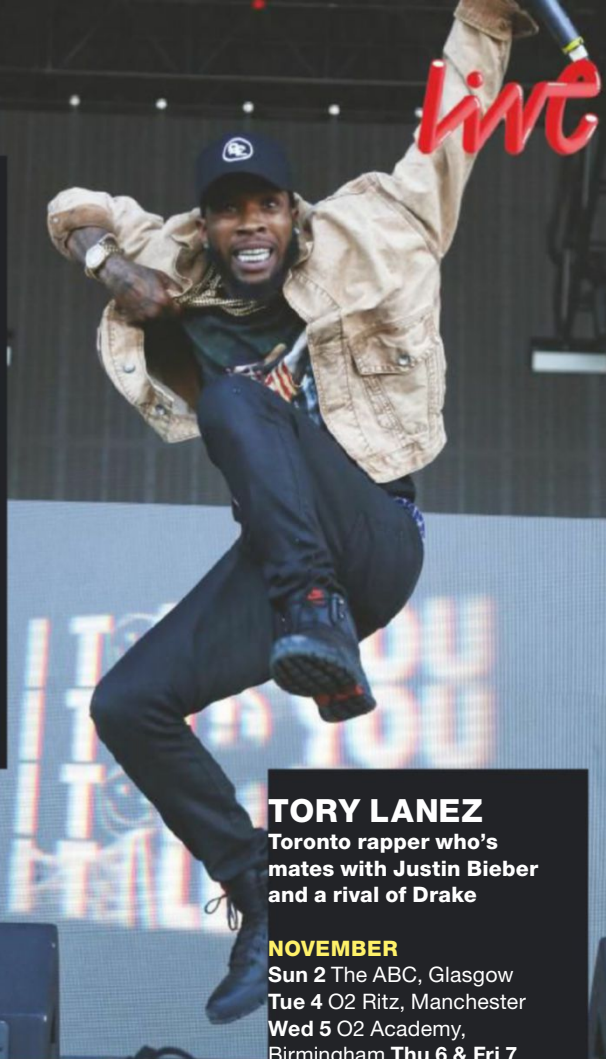
Synth-pop pioneers returning with their 14th album next year

JUNE 2017

Sat 3 Olympic Stadium, London

TELL ME MORE: A couple of weeks ago Depeche Mode announced their return with 'Spirit' – their first album in four years – and a global tour that sees them stop just once in the UK. It'll be a night to remember for those lucky enough to bag themselves a seat.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: TBC
TICKETS: £61.75



TORY LANEZ

Toronto rapper who's mates with Justin Bieber and a rival of Drake

NOVEMBER

Sun 2 The ABC, Glasgow

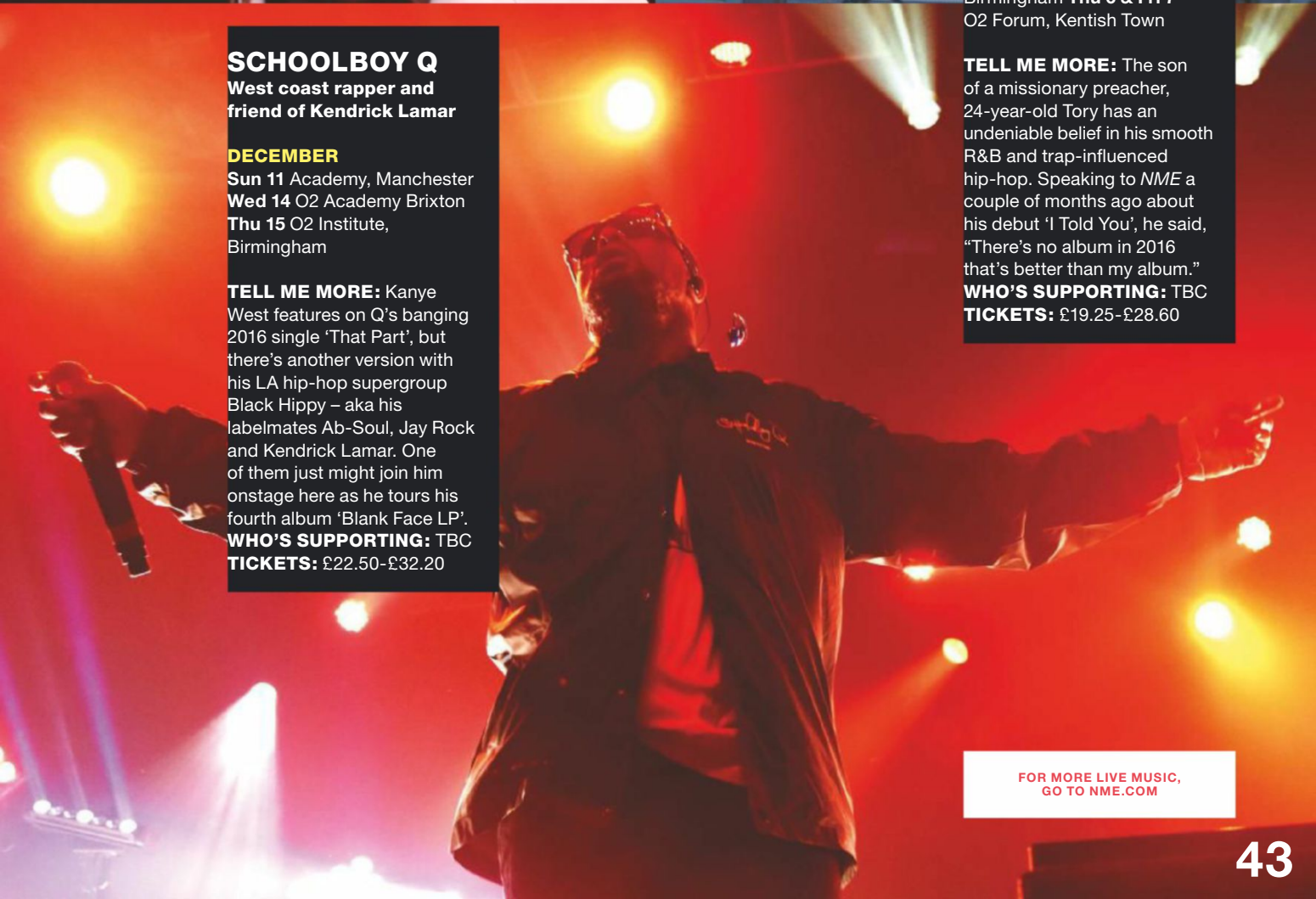
Tue 4 O2 Ritz, Manchester

Wed 5 O2 Academy, Birmingham

Thu 6 & Fri 7 O2 Forum, Kentish Town

TELL ME MORE: The son of a missionary preacher, 24-year-old Tory has an undeniable belief in his smooth R&B and trap-influenced hip-hop. Speaking to *NME* a couple of months ago about his debut 'I Told You', he said, "There's no album in 2016 that's better than my album."

WHO'S SUPPORTING: TBC
TICKETS: £19.25-£28.60



SCHOOLBOY Q

West coast rapper and friend of Kendrick Lamar

DECEMBER

Sun 11 Academy, Manchester

Wed 14 O2 Academy Brixton

Thu 15 O2 Institute, Birmingham

TELL ME MORE: Kanye West features on Q's banging 2016 single 'That Part', but there's another version with his LA hip-hop supergroup Black Hippy – aka his labelmates Ab-Soul, Jay Rock and Kendrick Lamar. One of them just might join him onstage here as he tours his fourth album 'Blank Face LP'.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: TBC
TICKETS: £22.50-£32.20

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THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

AKALA

Fri 28 Concorde 2, Brighton
Sat 29 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds
Sun 30 Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton
Mon 31 Junction, Cambridge

BASTILLE

Fri 28 The BIC, Bournemouth
Sat 29 Pavilions, Plymouth
Mon 31 Motorpoint Arena, Cardiff
Tue 1 & Wed 2 The O2, London

THE BIG MOON

Fri 28 Arts Club, Liverpool
Sat 29 King Tut's, Glasgow
Tue 1 Bodega, Nottingham
Wed 2 Waterfront, Norwich
Thu 3 Scala, London

BIG NARSTIE

Mon 31 The Astoria, Portsmouth

BRING ME THE HORIZON

Mon 31 The O2, London
Tue 1 The BIC, Bournemouth
Wed 2 Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham

CABBAGE

Fri 28 Ruby Lounge, Manchester
Sat 29 Kasbah, Coventry
Thu 3 The Venue, Derby

CASUAL THREATS

Fri 28 Head Of Steam, Newcastle

CHRISTINE AND THE QUEENS

Wed 2 & Thu 3 O2 Academy, Brixton

CORINNE BAILEY RAE

Fri 28 Town Hall, Leeds
Sat 29 Colston Hall, Bristol
Mon 31 Oran Mor, Glasgow
Tue 1 Sage, Gateshead
Thu 3 Dome, Brighton

DEATH GRIPS

Sat 29 The Roundhouse, London

DMA'S

Fri 28 The Old Market, Hove
Sat 29 Bierkeller, Bristol

EKKAH

Wed 2 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

GHETTS

Fri 28 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds

HONNE

Fri 28 The Roundhouse, London
Sun 30 The Haunt, Brighton
Mon 31 The Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Tue 1 O2 Institute, Birmingham

HOOKWORMS

Fri 28 Holy Trinity Church, Leeds

HOOTON TENNIS CLUB

Sat 29 Stereo, Glasgow
Sun 30 Electric Circus, Edinburgh
Mon 31 Think Tank, Newcastle
Tue 1 Leadmill, Sheffield
Thu 3 Portland Arms, Cambridge

JAMES BLAKE

Fri 28 The Limelight, Belfast
Sun 30 O2 Academy, Bristol
Tue 1 Eventim Apollo, London
Wed 2 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds
Thu 3 Academy, Manchester

KANO

Sat 29 O2 Academy, Sheffield

LADY LESHURR

Fri 28 The Arch, Brighton
Sun 30 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds

THE LUMINEERS

Fri 28 Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Sat 29 O2 Academy, Newcastle
Sun 30 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Tue 1 Pavilions, Plymouth

NAO

Sat 29 All Saints Church, Hove
Sun 30 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Tue 1 Motion & The Marble Factory, Bristol
Thu 3 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire

NOVELIST

Thu 3 Belgrave Music Hall, Leeds

PJ HARVEY

Sun 30 & Mon 31 O2 Academy Brixton
Wed 2 SECC, Glasgow
Thu 3 Victoria Warehouse, Manchester

SHE DREW THE GUN

Fri 28 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh

SLEAFORD MODS

Fri 28 Guild of Students, Liverpool
Mon 31 Dome, Brighton
Thu 3 Rock City, Nottingham

SLOW CLUB

Fri 28 Band On The Wall, Manchester
Sun 30 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Mon 31 Village Underground, London
Tue 1 The Globe, Cardiff
Thu 3 Yellow Arch Studios, Sheffsueield

SPRING KING

Fri 28 KOKO, London

THIS IS THE KIT

Sun 30 Trinity, Bristol
Tue 1 Union Chapel, London

WHITNEY

Thu 3 The Haunt, Brighton

WILEY

Sat 29 University Union, Leeds

CLUB NME
THE CLUB NME
HALLOWEEN BALL
WITH THE WHIP +
THE BAY RAYS
Fri 28 KOKO, London



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, CAMERA PRESS, DAVID WALLA

Bring Me
The Horizon

DANGEROUS WOMAN TOUR ARIANA GRANDE

MAY 2017

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MON 22 MANCHESTER ARENA

THU 25 LONDON THE O2

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MON 21 LIVERPOOL ECHO ARENA
TUE 22 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
THU 24 DUBLIN 3 ARENA
SOLD OUT
FRI 25 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA
SAT 26 NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA
SUN 27 BRIGHTON CENTRE
MON 28 PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS
TUE 29 LONDON THE O2
SOLD OUT

DECEMBER

SOLD OUT CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA

SUNDARA KARMA

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

FEBRUARY 2017

SAT 11	BIRMINGHAM THE RAINBOW	SAT 18	LEEDS UNIVERSITY
SUN 12	LIVERPOOL O2 ACADEMY	SUN 19	READING 3 SIXTY
MON 13	SHEFFIELD LEADMILL	MON 20	LEICESTER O2 ACADEMY
WED 15	NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNI	WED 22	PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
THU 16	MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL	THU 23	CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
FRI 17	GLASGOW THE GARAGE	FRI 24	LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE

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SOUNDTRACK OF MY LIFE

Ozzy Osbourne

It's the Prince of Darkness, of course



THE BEST SONG TO PLAY AT A HALLOWEEN PARTY

RICK ASTLEY

Never Gonna Give You Up

"That's kind of a difficult question; I don't really know, whatever you f**king want to play. I met him one time and he was alright. He was a bit like a kid, do you know what I mean?"

THE BEST BAND MY KIDS INTRODUCED ME TO TOOL

"My son loves this band. I don't mind them. They came round my house a couple of times. But to be honest with you, some bands will come up to me and say, 'If it wasn't for Sabbath, I wouldn't be doing this'. Then I hear them and think, 'What the f**k are you doing?'. It's just that growling rock sh*t, do you know what I mean? There's no real threat to it."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

PAUL & PAULA

Hey Paula

"When this song came out I had a crush on a chick at school so I still get all melancholy when I hear it today. I ran into the same chick years later and found out that she wasn't into guys so I never had a chance. At school I would have died twice to be with her."



THE SCARIEST SONG EVER WRITTEN

BLACK SABBATH

Black Sabbath

"When we started gigging way back when, as soon as we started playing this song's opening chords, young girls in the audience would f**king freak out. They thought we were Satan's f**king friends or something. That's when the whole Prince of Darkness sh*t started. When people get excited about Halloween coming around each year, all I think is, 'Well, we used to have Halloween every f**king night!'"

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

MUNGO JERRY

In The Summertime

"We played a festival with them once and they stole the whole day. But when this song came out, they played it on the radio over and over again for f**king ever. I liked it at first but I f**king hate it now. The same thing happened with 'I Got U Babe' with Sonny & Cher."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

THE BEATLES

A Day In The Life

"I really need a few more years to think this over, but probably something from 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' or 'Revolver'. I definitely don't want my f**king greatest hits album – I never ever play that thing, I'm f**king embarrassed about it. And I definitely don't want a f**king happy song – I'm dead."



THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A ROCK STAR

THE BEATLES

She Loves You

"I come from the backstreets of Aston in Birmingham and it wasn't a very cool place when I was growing up. I used to sit on my doorstep and think, 'How the hell am I going to get out of here?' And then one day 'She Loves You' came on the radio. That song turned my head around. My son always says to me, 'What was it like when The Beatles happened?' All I can really say to him is: 'Imagine going to bed in one world, and then waking up in another that's so different and exciting that it makes you feel glad to be alive.'"

Black Sabbath play The O2, London January 29 & 31, 2017

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The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

JOSH HOMME

Queens Of The Stone Age

October 26, 2002

"Our tours are like a steamroller with a load of clowns on it. It's really funny – but if you stand in front of it you'll get rolled over."



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END...



THE END

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TUE 24 GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
THU 26 LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA
SUN 29 LOI **SOLD OUT** 02
TUE 31 LONDON THE 02

FEBRUARY 2017

THU 2 BIRMINGHAM GENTING ARENA
SAT 4 BIRMINGHAM **SOLD OUT** NG ARENA

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